

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 13 and 16 as follows.

Sub C! 1. (Amended) A method for enabling a caller to locate a called party using a computer system comprising:

providing a contact list manager (10) in which a called party can store a list (22) of two or more contacts; and

upon receiving a request to locate a called party, referring to said contact list to automatically attempt to locate said called party, wherein said automatically attempt to locate said called party comprises:

automatically sending a message via a first contact method, said first contact method associated with a contact in said contact list, said message requesting location information regarding said called party;

receiving a response to said message, said response indicating a second contact method, other than said first contact method, for attempting to reach said called party; and

automatically processing the response to facilitate use of said second contact method to attempt to reach said called party.

5. (Amended) A method according to claim 2 wherein said automatically attempting to locate said called party comprises:

automatically sending one or more messages to parties listed in a contact list requesting location information regarding said called party,

receiving responses to said one or more messages and presenting a response to a calling party; and

canceling outstanding messages when a response is received.

Sub B! 6. (Amended) A method for a locating a called party comprising: receiving a request to locate a called party;

automatically sending messages to multiple parties listed in a contact list
requesting location information regarding said called party; and
canceling outstanding messages when a response is received to said
messages.

8. (Amended) The method according to claim 6 further comprising
presenting a response to a calling party.

13. (Amended) A method according to claim 12 wherein:
the calling party is automatically notified of said responses,
said responses contain a contact method for reaching the called party,
the called party may cancel the called party location process at any time
including automatically canceling, expiring and/or recalling all dispatched
messages.

16. (Amended) An apparatus for automatically locating a called party
comprising:
a contact list manager (10) in which a called party can store a list (22) of
two or more contacts;
a configuration interface (18);
a locator (60) capable of sending out location request messages and
receiving and handling responses, wherein a response, to a location request
message sent to a first destination (22a), indicates a second destination which is
to be subsequently called to reach the called party, and said first and second
destinations are of different multimedia types.

Please add claims 21-35 as follows.

21. (New) A method according to claim 1 wherein said second contact
method includes a telephone number that is entered in full by a responding party.

22. (New) A method according to claim 1 wherein said second contact method includes a telephone number, and said first contact method includes an e-mail address.

32, 23. (New) A method according to claim 1 wherein said automatically processing the response comprises automatically extracting said second contact method from said response. ✓

112/2nd 24. (New) A method according to claim 23 wherein said first contact method is a telephone number, said second contact method is a telephone number spoken verbally by a responding party via telephone, and said automatically extracting said second contact method from said response includes using speech recognition software to extract said second contact method. ✓

Directory assistance

a^b cont 25. (New) A method according to claim 1 wherein said automatically processing the response comprises automatically extracting said second contact method using optical recognition software. email

one possible way / would use software

26. (New) A method according to claim 1 wherein said automatically processing the response comprises recording said second contact method and playing the response for said caller.

27. (New) A method according to claim 1 wherein said automatically attempt to locate said called party is capable of concurrently sending messages to each of at least two contacts of said two or more contacts in response to a single request to locate a called party.

28. (New) A method according to claim 2 wherein said automatically attempting to locate said called party comprises:

automatically sending multiple messages to parties listed in a contact list requesting location information regarding said called party;

receiving responses to one or more of said multiple messages and
presenting a response to a calling party; and
canceling outstanding messages when a response is received.

- ✓ 29. (New) A method according to claim 6 further comprising receiving a response to one of said messages, said one of said messages having been sent via a first contact method, said response including location information including a second contact method having a number or address that is manually or verbally entered by a responding party to indicate location of said called party, wherein said first and second contact methods are of different multimedia types.

- 35, 33, 30. (New) A method according to claim 29 wherein one of said first and second contact methods is a telephone call and another of said first and second contact methods is a text-based messaging.

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24+25 = 31. (New) A method according to claim 30 wherein said first contact method is a telephone number, said second contact method is entered verbally by a responding party via telephone, and said automatically extracting said second contact method from said response includes using speech recognition software to extract said second contact method.

32. (New) A method according to claim 29 further comprising automatically extracting said second contact method from said response.

33. (New) An apparatus according to claim 16 wherein one of said first and second destinations is a number for a telephone and another of said first and second contact methods is an address for text-based messaging.

34. (New) A method for a locating a called party comprising:
receiving a request by a calling party to locate a called party; and

automatically sending one or more messages to parties listed in a contact list requesting location information regarding said called party, wherein said messages include a number or address at which said calling party may be reached by said parties listed in said contact list, and an instruction for said parties to directly contact said calling party via said number or address.

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cont.* 35. (New) A method according to claim 32 wherein said number or address includes a phone number for telephone calls or an address that handles communication including text-based communication.
